

REMARKS**Overview**

Claims 7-10 and 12-13 are pending in this application. Claims 9 and 14-18 have been cancelled. Claims 7 and 10 have been amended. The present response is an earnest effort to place all claims in proper form for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issuance is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of now cancelled claim 9. As the Examiner has indicated that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is now allowable. As claims 8 and 11-13 depend from claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as well.

Claim 10, which the Examiner has also indicated contains allowable subject matter has been amended into independent form.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 18 is cancelled, thereby mooting this rejection.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7, 8, and 11-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 4,504,761 to Triplett. Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of now cancelled claim 9 which the Examiner has previously indicated contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, this rejection to claim 7 should be withdrawn. As claims 8 and 11-13 depend from claim 7, these rejections should also be withdrawn. Claims 14-18 have been cancelled, therefore these rejections are moot.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

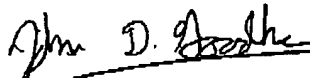
The Examiner has indicated that claims 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 4,504,761 to Triplett, in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,864,606 to Rose. Claim 15 has been cancelled, thus this rejection is moot. Claim 13 incorporates the limitations of independent claim 7 which has been amended. Therefore this rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Therefore it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner find all pending claims in proper form for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issuance is therefore respectfully requested.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN D. GOODHUE, Reg. No. 47,603
McKee, Voorhees & Sease, P.L.C.
801 Grand Avenue, Suite 3200
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2721
Phone No: (515) 288-3667
Fax No: (515) 288-1338
CUSTOMER NO: 22885

Attorneys of Record

- bja -